

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 893  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ralph A. Brewer on the occasion of his retirement from the Tennessee School for the Blind.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should pay tribute to those estimable citizens who have dedicated their professional lives to the growth and development of our State's most precious natural resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer is one such exemplary citizen who in his thirty-eight years as an educator and administrator has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, after fourteen years as Superintendent of the Tennessee School for the Blind, Mr. Brewer will be retiring; during his illustrious career, he has positively influenced many young lives; and

WHEREAS, a talented student-athlete, he graduated in 1962, from the Tennessee School for the Blind, where he captured the 1962 State High School Wrestling Championship and received an Athletic Scholarship for Wrestling to Auburn University; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer is a highly-regarded graduate of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; he received a Master of Science in Special Education with Certification in Education for the Blind and Visually Impaired from the George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in 1978; and

WHEREAS, committed to lifelong learning, Mr. Brewer earned an Administrative Endorsement from Frostburg State University in 1983, and additional postgraduate hours from Marshall University; and

WHEREAS, he began his remarkable career in education as a teacher with the Tennessee School for the Blind in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer served with the utmost distinction as a Counselor for the Tennessee School for the Blind from 1972-1975, and as the Director of Student Living from 1975-1980; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brewer served as the Principal of the West Virginia School for the Blind in Romney, West Virginia from 1980-1988; and

WHEREAS, he accepted the position of Superintendent of the Tennessee School for the Blind in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer, as the school's superintendent, has led the Tennessee School for the Blind to achieve unparalleled levels of excellence; his strength of character, enthusiasm, and judicious leadership have earned him the respect and approbation of the students, faculty, and staff of the Tennessee School for the Blind; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brewer has been an active and valued member of many professional and civic organizations; he has served as the National Director of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, President of the Alumni Association of the Tennessee School for the Blind, Secretary of the Council of Executives of American Residential Schools for the Visually Handicapped, President of the Board of Directors of the Hampshire

County Special Services Center, Inc., and Certified Trainer with the Leadership Development Process for the Tennessee Academy for School Leaders; and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Ed Lindsey Industries for the Blind, Advisory Council for the Vision Program at George Peabody College at Vanderbilt, Advisory Committee for Volunteer Blind Industries for the Blind, and the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished educator and administrator, Ralph A. Brewer has been awarded "Coach of the Year" from the Nashville Interscholastic League Wrestling in 1970, Honorary Life Membership in the Tennessee School for the Blind Parent-Teacher Association in 1988, and Outstanding Leadership In Education from the West Virginia State Board of Education in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in Mr. Brewer's honor, the Alumni Association of the Tennessee School for the Blind established "The Ralph Brewer Leadership Award," fittingly presenting him with the first award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed member and past President of the Donelson Lions Club, he has been selected as the 1993 Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellow and the 1997 Lion of the Year for District 12-I; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer exemplifies the allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Brewer most treasures the love and companionship he shares with his wife, his two daughters, and his grandchild; and

WHEREAS, although he is retiring, his imprint on the Tennessee School for the Blind and its students, faculty, curriculum, and programs will indelibly remain a positive force for change and growth; and

WHEREAS, Ralph A. Brewer truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated administrator who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be recognized on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Ralph A. Brewer for his meritorious service to the Tennessee School for the Blind, applaud his years of diligent and perspicacious service as a teacher, counselor, and administrator, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.